

# Record

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## First phase of Trace Pointe facility opened

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Ribbon cutting ceremonies and an open house were held Feb. 12 at the assisted living facility of Trace Pointe Retirement Community in Clinton, a joint venture of the Mississippi Baptist-affiliated Baptist Health Systems in Jackson, and Seattle-based Columbia Pacific Management, Inc.

"This is a red letter day for the city of Clinton," said Rosemary Aultman, mayor of Clinton. "When this administration started in 1993, we had a wish list which included some kind of comprehensive retirement facility. The first day I toured this facility, I had to fight back tears. It is so much more than anything I ever envisioned."

Whitfield Price is counted as the first of Trace Pointe's 44 residents. The Price family sold the nearly 60 acres off Northside Drive to Baptist Health Systems for the development of Trace Pointe.

"I first saw this property in 1916 as part of our family farm," Price said.

"I never thought I would have a home that would cost over one million dollars and that it would be big enough for me and a few hundred of my friends," he added.

Trace Pointe executive director Dan Gore indicated that the goal of Baptist Health Systems is to provide a comprehensive

care-giving community for aging citizens, with independent living, assisted living, and extended care.

This first phase of three planned phases provides nearly 100 apartments of assisted living, a medicare clinic, a rehabilitation clinic, and an adult day health care clinic, Gore said.

Phase two will provide apartments and cottages for independent living. Construction is planned to begin the summer of 2000.

Phase three calls for the construction of a nursing home and extended care facility, Gore said. Construction plans for phase three have not been set.

"Assisted living is a combination of housing for senior citizens that is designed to promote independence while providing help with the activities of daily living," according to Brady Stewart, community director of Trace Pointe. Stewart works for Emeritus Assisted Living, which manages the Trace Pointe facility.

Seattle-based Emeritus, which runs over 115 centers across the U.S., is not new to Mississippi. The company operates four other facilities in Hattiesburg, Meridian, Ridgeland, and Biloxi, according to Alice Latino, regional director of opera-



GRAND OPENING—Cutting the ribbon February 12 for phase one of Trace Pointe Retirement Community in Clinton are (front row, from left): Dan Gore, executive director; Whitfield Price, first resident; Clinton Mayor Rosemary Aultman; Brady Stewart, community director for Emeritus Assisted Living; Alice Latino, regional director of operations, Emeritus Assisted Living; Wilford J. Patterson, Trace Pointe physician; Michael Stevens, executive director of Baptist Medical Enterprises, Inc.; (back row, from left) Clinton aldermen Jehu Brabham, Clint Brantley, and Tony Hisaw; Don Nerren, Trace Pointe chaplain; and Russ Cubic, vice-president with Emeritus Assisted Living. (Photo by Carl M. White)

tions for Emeritus.

Since opening in November, nearly half of the apartments have been occupied, said Ginger McCann, marketing director for Trace Pointe.

Trace Pointe assisted living offers one- and two-bedroom apartments and three different sizes of efficiency apartments, McCann said. In addition, three meals a day are provided in a restaurant-style dining hall. Also included are weekly housekeeping services, cable television, a full-time activities program, a chaplain, membership to the Baptist Healthplex, a full service pharmacy, and a licensed nurse on staff.

Trace Pointe also includes a Medicare clinic with Wilford J. Patterson, a long-time Clinton physician.

In addition there is a rehabilitation clinic along with an adult day health clinic on the premises. If a resident prefers to use another medical clinic and physician, transportation is provided.

Elizabeth Mullins, director of clinical operations for Baptist Health Systems, pointed out that Patterson's

Medicare clinic is open to the general public, not just Trace Pointe resi-

dents. However, they see only patients with Medicare.

"We do cater to the needs of senior adults," she said.

A special feature at Trace Pointe is the adult day health services. Carla Moss, a registered nurse and community relations coordinator with adult day health, said they provide a program for cognitively impaired individuals who need supervision and socialization during the day. With a medical staff, social workers, and chaplaincy services available, adult day health provides breakfast, a hot lunch, and an afternoon snack. There are also structured activities and interaction.

"Our goal is to help families maintain as much independence as possible. We provide a service to the family taking care of someone who is not yet ready for 24 hour a day placement," Moss said.

Adult Day Health includes a special section for Alzheimer's patients, and other neurologically impaired individuals, such as stroke victims. Security efforts include key-pad entry and exits.

"Adult Day Health services are relatively new to the area," Moss said. "It is part of Baptist Health Care's effort to create a comprehensive approach to adult health needs as our population ages," she said.

For more information, contact Trace Pointe Retirement Community at (601) 926-1224.



CELEBRATING TRACE POINTE — Residents and guest enjoy lunch in the dining hall during the February 12 ribbon cutting and open house at Trace Pointe Retirement Community in Clinton. (Photo by Carl M. White)

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Lyle to retire

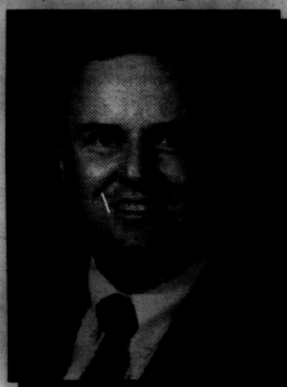
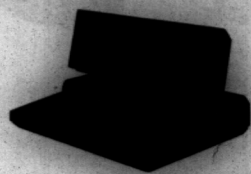
Orlando housing set

Homer Lindsay Jr. dies

Sunday School lessons



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# How low can we go?

In our never-ending quest as a society to devalue human life as deeply as possible, the low points are only temporary. We are always willing to go lower.

From Oregon — the only locale in the country that enjoys state-sanctioned assisted suicide — comes word that the how-to suicide video "Final Exit" has been broadcast over a public access television channel.

In the video (and book of the same name), author Derek Humphry describes deadly drug combinations and explains how to mix the drugs with applesauce to ease the aggrieved person's departure from this world.

Humphry, co-founder of the pro-suicide Hemlock Society, has publicly admitted helping his first wife mix fatal drugs into her coffee when she decided to commit suicide, and his second wife left a note indicating that Humphry had driven her to commit suicide.

In a state where the suicide rate for children ages 10-17 has increased 500% in the last three decades, a recent study of Oregon's high school students found that 20% has seriously considered ending their lives.

Children are, without a doubt, the target audience for the video.

David Stevens, the executive director of the 15,000-member Christian Medical and Dental Society, pointed out that people like Humphry and his Hemlock Society encourage troubled people to eliminate themselves, not the physical and emotional pain that is causing them to be troubled in the first place.

"As medical professionals, we recognize suicide as a desperate cry for help. We answer that cry with pain management, proper medical treatment, and counseling," he said.

Satan indeed has a firm foothold in a nation that uses its advanced medical and communications technologies for the pur-

pose of killing off its young people rather than addressing their highly-treatable needs.

Next comes the announcement from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a taxpayer-supported federal institution, that public funding will soon be available for fetal cell experimentation that will ultimately result in the destruction of even more unborn children.

To make such a horrific proposal go down a little smoother, NIH has said it will not underwrite the actual act of "harvesting" the stem cells, but only the experiments on cells acquired from private sources.

Well, from whence does NIH think the stem cells will come? Already, reports are being received of private companies setting up shop in abortion clinics to provide the "fresh tissue" needed for the experiments — including an order form which researchers can use to specify their needs for eyes, livers, and brains of a certain fetal age.

Lastly, the administration of Princeton University recently announced with great fanfare that they had gone all the way to Australia to hire the school's new professor of "bioethics," Peter Singer.

It turns out that Professor Singer advocates the killing of infants up to a month after birth, if parents change their minds or simply aren't up to the unanticipated demands of being a family. Singer has written that he would also permit the instant killing of imperfect infants.

It is interesting to note that Singer is also an international celebrity for the cause of animal rights, having also written several books on that subject.

"LOOKS LIKE THE PASTOR OF 'FIRST CHURCH OF SEEKERVILLE' IS LAYING IN FRESH SUPPLIES!"

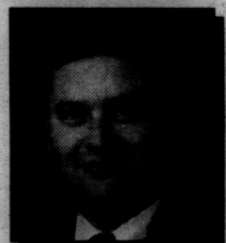


Does anyone in the lofty Princeton administration see the intellectual dishonesty of hiring a professor of "bioethics" who would kill children but save the animals? Apparently not, since the school's president issued a defiant statement defending the hiring of Singer and promoting the stage Princeton has given him from which to proliferate his views on the human condition.

So there you have it — three more new lows for what is arguably the most enlightened society on earth.

Stick around, though. We aren't anywhere near finished with our digging.

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:



### Politics no source for real revival

By Carl M. White, Associate Editor

After completing a gubernatorial election that featured Mississippi Sunday School politics at its best, we are now facing months of presidential election-year rhetoric where candidates, hungry for the voting block of the religious right or left, profess various degrees of faith.

History should remind us of an important lesson related to politics and religion — namely, when the church mingles with politics, rarely does the church win.

Case in point: the Prohibition movement. Though successful in 1919 in passing the 18th amendment outlawing alcoholic beverages, on the whole the movement was a failure. In the latter part of the first decade of the 20th century, preachers, activists, and politicians preached from pulpit and platform alike that by outlawing demon rum, revival was certain to sweep the country and usher in a golden age.

History shows that not only did revival not follow on the heels of Prohibition, but rather a reckless age of lawlessness and Godlessness — the Roaring Twenties!

By 1933 a new coalition had formed using the Depression and jobs as an excuse to repeal

the Volstead Act and reinstate the liquor industry.

The church should have learned a lesson. One does not achieve kingdom goals through political means. Or, to state it in a different way, the Kingdom of God cannot be brought about through an election. (Neither can the Kingdom of God be defeated through an election.)

In an insightful article in the Jan. 10 issue of Christianity Today, Union University professor David P. Gushee makes five observations about politics and religion, three of which I bring to your attention this election year.

First, politics is a vicious contest for power. In the course of that contest the rough and tumble world of politics will use and consume whatever or whoever is available.

When Republicans swept congress in the 1994 elections, it

was on the back of many promises to the Religious Right. Yet, very few of those promises were delivered. Many leaders of the Religious Right have emerged so disillusioned that some are calling for political disengagement.

Political engagement is a legitimate arena for Christians. This is not a time for pulling back, but a time for thoughtful, careful engagement with eyes wide open.

Second, the best political leaders are politically effective and morally admirable in both public and private life. We should look at the total package, not just single issues.

President Clinton has demonstrated to be effective politically, but privately not morally admirable. Other presidents have been the opposite. The worst possible combination is a person who lacks both

admirability and effectiveness.

Third, Christianity is a major factor in American public life, thus we should watch for its manipulation.

I like to hear that my favorite candidate is a person of faith, but how and when he or she publicly expresses faith concerns me.

Pastors should be wary of being asked by political candidates to write letters of endorsement. It is an attempt to use a pastor's reputation as a man of faith to win votes in an election.

I personally believe the worship hour on Sundays is for worship, not for politicians to share their testimony, no matter how meaningful and genuine. If there wasn't an election, would he be asking for time in your pulpit before your people?

As believers, our hope and trust should be placed in the sovereign will of God, not in a political party or candidate.

The primary means for achieving the ends of God's Kingdom are not political. They are spiritual, including evangelism and discipleship. Just as outlawing alcohol didn't bring revival, neither will outlawing abortion, gambling, or whatever is your special issue.

Revival comes as God works on human hearts, one person at a time.



# Seminarians helping in flooded Venezuela

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Lance Fadeley's shovel struck something soft. Digging debris from the mud-clogged flat, his heart dropped. The body of what seemed to be a baby appeared amid the dirt and rubble.

To his relief, the body belonged only to a child's doll. But the shocking possibilities had further impressed on him the magnitude of the death and destruction wreaked on Venezuela by December mudslides.

"I pretty much fought back tears the whole 10 days I was there," said Fadeley, a Middletown, Md., native and master of divinity student at Southern Seminary (SBTS) in Louisville, Ky.

Disaster relief was not the intended purpose for the nine Southern Seminary students on a January mission trip to Caracas, Venezuela. Yet, the devastating floods which killed thousands in the South American country had changed the plans.

"It was God's timing," said Daniel Hatfield, Southern Seminary's dean of students and leader of the mission trip.

Originally prepared to assist two missionary families in "pre-evangelizing" one of the largest and poorest municipalities in the Caracas area, the group expanded its role to work for two days among flood victims in the town of Catia La Mar, about an hour outside of Caracas.

The team, along with their missionary hosts, distributed food and drinking water, shoveled mud from the blocked doorways of homes, and talked with people about their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Despite this opportunity to dig out homes, the truly groundbreaking work occurred, not in Catia La Mar,

but among the 3.5 million poor in metropolitan Caracas during the last several days of the trip.

because they want to reach the parents of those kids, too."

The local public school pro-

the love — flocking around the team members wherever they went and clinging to every word spoken about Jesus.

"Here we struggle just trying to witness to one person and trying to get that one person to get wide-eyed about Christ," said Anthony Cardozo, a master of divinity student from Pompano Beach, Fla. "And there I was standing amongst a group of about 10 kids, and they're wide-eyed and just willing to soak it up — the gospel and who Jesus is. That impacted my life so greatly, and I will never, ever forget that."

"All the kids I just wanted to bring home with me," Fadeley said. "To see the smiles on their faces was my reward. The smiles are memories that will stay with me forever."

And the impact on future missions work there, Hatfield said, will also last long after this particular trip.

"We didn't just make contact. We gained an open door," he said.

"Most significantly," Hutchens added, "the director



POPULAR IN VENEZUELA — Mary Nell Nackle (center) was one of several Southern Seminary students who participated in a recent mission trip to Caracas, Venezuela. She was "a big hit" with the Caracan children, according to missionary Rich Hutchens. (BP photo by Lance Fadeley)

"Our goal [for the team] was to minister in specific ways to the families living in the barrio of San Blas [in metro Caracas]," said missionary host Lloyd Rodgers, who, along with his wife, Connie, and missionary Rich Hutchens, is a graduate of Southern Seminary.

The team from the seminary sponsored a variety of neighborhood activities geared toward youth and children, from holding basketball clinics, to showing Christian films about drug abuse, to just playing a simple pick-up baseball game.

"They outdid themselves in the neighborhood with the poor," Hatfield said. "The missionaries chose that as their project for us rather than just meandering through the neighborhoods knocking on doors

vided the main entry into the Caracan children's lives. In a "cultural exchange," school officials amazingly allowed the Southern Seminary students to teach English classes, to speak about American culture and, most importantly, to share the gospel.

"They shared openly in the hallways and in the classrooms, to teachers and students alike, about their faith in Jesus Christ," Rodgers said.

Despite having only two on the team functional in Spanish, Southern students aptly communicated the gospel through love, salvation bracelets and many smiles.

"We may not have been able to understand every word that was said," said Mary Nell Nackle, a master of divinity student from Louisville. "But we could understand and relate to the many smiles and times of laughter that we experienced with the people there."

The children gladly returned

of the high school gathered us together at the close of the two days of activities and informed us, 'This school is your home. Any activity that you want to carry out, you are welcome.' We couldn't have received a better invitation."

"These volunteers from Southern made us as missionaries look good," Rodgers said. "The people will associate us with this group of volunteers, and because of their faithful service and witness, people will be saved and churches planted."

## NOBTS chapel set for 'Net

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Internet users worldwide can now attend chapel services at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) without leaving their home. By simply logging their computers to "www.nobts.edu/chapel/videoresources.htm" each Tuesday through Thursday at 10 a.m., alumni, missionaries, and friends of the seminary as well as extension students and other computer users have access to the same sermons and presentations that on-campus students have.

Using RealNetwork's RealVideo, NOBTS is the first seminary to provide complete Internet coverage of its chapel services via live streaming video and audio. Internet users can watch and listen in real time to featured speakers as they deliver messages to the students and faculty of NOBTS.

At other times, internet visitors can view the Leavell Chapel archives web page to listen to the sermons of their choice. Eventually, the seminary will make available these sermon archives on CD-ROM. NOBTS Director of Auxiliary Services Stan Watts said that the Internet video streaming is the communication technique of the future. "It's a very important medium for a student to learn because of its ease of use and its cost," Watts said, explaining that the cost is typically less than \$15,000, well below the hundreds of thousands of dollars it costs to broadcast through television.

The availability of these services worldwide is another expression of the seminary's core value of spiritual vitality, said seminary president Chuck Kelley.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

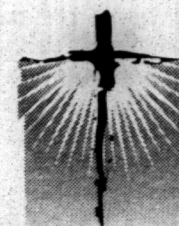
Texas pastor and Kosciusko native Morris Chapman will apparently be the "conservative" candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). Houston (Texas) pastor John Bisagno announces his plans to nominate Chapman at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans.

### 20 years ago

George County Baptists proclaim Jan. 27 as John A. and Ruby Parker Day, to mark the retirement of the Parkers after 37 years as missionaries to Chile. John Parker is a native of George County and grew up in Rocky Creek Church. Ruby Parker is a Texas native.

### 50 years ago

D. A. "Scotchie" McCall, for 11 years executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, resigns in order to accept the pastorate of Tabernacle Baptist Church of Chicago. McCall led Miss. Baptists during its most prosperous years to date.



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THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

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## Bible campaign to kick off February 21

Mississippi pastors are invited to a complimentary breakfast at 8 a.m. on February 21 at Primos Northgate restaurant in Jackson, to learn about the Book of Hope campaign to distribute 7,000,000 Bibles in 2,000 American cities over the week of Easter 2000.

The campaign is being coordinated by the Christian Broadcasting Network, in partnership with Mission America/The Lighthouse Movement and a coalition of religious organizations. The Southern Baptist Convention has endorsed the campaign, according to a February 11 press release from Mission America.

The goal of Mission America/The Lighthouse Movement is to mobilize the church to share Jesus Christ with every person in America by the end of the year 2000. Jarvis Ward of Pearl, former executive director of Mission Mississippi, is the state coordinator.

Seating for the breakfast is limited and reservations are required by February 17. To make reservations, call (601) 932-1464 or e-mail: user506516@aol.com.

# Mississippi artist drawing people to Christ

SUGAR HILL, Ga. (BP) — He once drew for a living in a studio. Now he draws for Jesus onstage.

Most people want to see an artist's finished work, not the work in progress, but add Christian rock music, lights, slides, Scripture narration, and drama, and suddenly you have "Drawing to the Rock," a gospel presentation that appeals to people of all ages.

Kerry Jackson's desire is that through his unique ministry of arts people will be drawn to the Rock of Ages.

Jackson said God gave him the vision for this ministry while he attended Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He had done "chalk talks" in churches, but the vision was for "something really big."

When he first came to seminary from Jackson, he left his freelance art studio and thought he would no longer need his skills and fine arts degree from Mississippi State University in Starkville.

"I gave up my art career, sold all my supplies, tools, and client list to become a counselor," Jackson said.

The vision for his ministry came one day while he was in his car waiting to pick up his daughter.

"I almost started crying right there, [but] I didn't know it would take so long to pull it together," said Jackson, who graduated with a master of communications degree in 1993.

draws "a normal happy Jesus," then violently slashes a crown of thorns on Jesus' head.

In the background, the audience hears a hammer hitting nails. When the song is done,

The ministry is about a year and a half old and is a family affair. Jackson built the set, pieced together the lighting, made the slide presentations and bought a sound system. His wife, Twyla, is the light and sound technician, which he says is the hardest job.

Jackson is a promotion design specialist with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Alpharetta, Ga. Part of his job is designing NAMB booths that are used at conventions.

Jackson knows that he didn't have to go to Southwestern to do the job he is doing now, but Southwestern exposed him to missions, to lost people, and to the Word of God.

"If I hadn't come, I would not have felt his call to missions or I would have ignored it," he said.

"It was [at Southwestern] that I knew God had more special plans for my talent than I could ever have imagined."

To schedule Jackson for a presentation or to obtain a brochure or promotional video, write to Drawing to the Rock, 1140 Sycamore Summit, Sugar Hill, GA, 30518 or kjackson@namb.net. Jackson can do the entire presentation or just parts of it, depending on the need and time limitations of churches.



Jackson

The hour-and-15-minute presentation consists of five vignettes: the apple in the Garden of Eden; the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem; the triumphal entry of Jesus in Jerusalem; Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane; and the crucifixion.

As Jackson moves from vignette to vignette, music from groups like Holy Soldier play. In the crucifixion scene, as the The Violet Burning's song "The Killing" plays, Jackson

Jackson peels away Rubylith to reveal a pre-cut scene of the empty tomb as the song "Believe" by Grammatrain plays.

Through the creative use of lighting, Jackson makes it appear that Jesus has risen from the tomb and is beckoning people to come to him.

In the second half of the presentation, Jackson emerges portraying Jesus. "I ask [people in the audience] if they love me, if they believe in me."

## Lyle announces retirement from N. England post

NORTHBOROUGH, Mass (BP) — Ken Lyle has been involved in full-time Christian ministry since 1957 when he was called to be the youth director at Calvary

Church in Tupelo. Now, after nearly seven years as executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England, Lyle announced his retirement from his position effective June 30.

Lyle, 63, told the New England Baptist newspaper he is looking forward to new opportunities for ministry following his retirement, but he will miss the people of New England.

"We've had a wonderful seven years. God has put a lot of things in place," Lyle said. "I think the convention is strong and capable of moving forward. I don't anticipate the convention even missing a step, really."

"Primarily, it is God's leading that this is the right timing for us to retire and to get new leadership into place here in the Baptist Convention of New England," Lyle added. "I'm confident that there are a number of folks who can take this job and move it to the next level in the future."

Lyle said he plans to continue preaching and teaching as well as serving as a consultant with urban groups. "I want to spend more time with family, of course," he said.

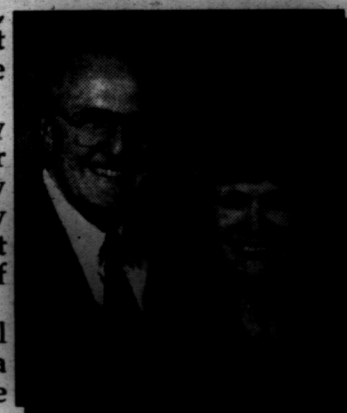
Lyle said the greatest joy of his ministry in New England has been the people on his staff and in the churches. "God had

given Judy and me the opportunity to be in numerous churches, teaching, preaching, worshipping, and sharing. We have enjoyed just being out among the folks, sharing encouragement and seeking to motivate and help our pastors and laity to continue on the journey," he said.

Lyle has a long history of ministry with Southern Baptist churches and state conventions. The native Texan earned an undergraduate degree from Mississippi College in Clinton and graduate degrees at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Georgetown College in Kentucky. He also attended Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

His first fulltime ministry position was youth director at Calvary Church in Tupelo. He also served in churches in Texas, Georgia, and New York. Prior to his appointment at the Baptist Convention of New England, Lyle was the executive director-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of Maryland and Delaware from 1982-1993.

Lyle is married to the former Judith Gail Deuschle of Tupelo; she is the eldest sister of Ed Deuschle, longtime Mississippi pastor and currently a consultant in the evangelism department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.



The Lyles

## Ag missions group to hold annual meeting Feb. 19 in Madison

The Agricultural Missions Foundation, Ltd., will hold its thirtieth annual meeting Feb. 19 at First Church, Madison. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at 2 p.m. Foundation President Frank Prewitt of Belzoni said the program for the meeting will include a recap of the organization's response to Hurricane Mitch in Central America, where \$70,000 was made available to replace small animals that were lost (goats, rabbits, chickens, etc.) and to purchase seed for the planting of new crops.

Three missionaries will also make presentations on their work:

♦ Veterinarian Jerry Bedsole will reflect on his years of service in Ethiopia and describe the needs in that poverty-stricken African nation.

♦ Steve Musen, a son of missionaries who is himself now serving as an agricultural missionary in the Philippines, will report on developments at the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center and the Asian Rural Life Development Foundation.

♦ Dennis McCall will discuss mission work in Tanzania and his plans upon returning to the mission field later this year.

"The meeting is open to anyone who is interested in basic, down-to-earth, hands-on personal involvement in programs to reach people and help them learn how to produce food for themselves and their families," said Gene Triggs of Madison, annual meeting chairman.

The meeting is open to the public, and there is no charge for attending. Reservations are not required. For more information, contact Harold Watson at (601) 857-8544. E-mail: hwatso@aol.com.



# Orlando church members to open homes

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — In a modern twist to the parable of the Good Samaritan, First Church of Orlando, Fla., will provide free housing for pastors, ministerial staff, and missionaries attending this June's Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

The "Good Samaritan Inn" will rely on members of the congregation willing to open their homes to qualifying messengers and their families between June 10-15.

To qualify, applicants must be current or retired ministerial staff or missionaries. They also must forward a letter from their church verifying their status and messenger credentials.

Pastors can sign up by e-mailing a message to GoodSamaritanInn@fcorlando.org or by leaving a voice mail message at (407) 514-4411. The church plans to add on-line registration; check its Internet site — www.fcorlando.org — for details. The deadline to apply is April 15.

This option is for housing only and does not include transportation or food. The number of spaces available has not been determined.

There is no set limit on the number of family members who will be able to visit, said J.B. Collingsworth, First Church's assistant pastor. That will depend on the space

available in a host's home, he explained. Visitors will not be able to bring pets.

While first discussed with the congregation last September by senior pastor Jim Henry, the project will be officially unveiled via a video presentation at services Jan. 30. Sign-up forms will be included in the Sunday bulletin and available at information booths set up at both welcome centers.

A lay coordinating committee plans to follow up in February with visits to Sunday School classes. They plan to target seniors classes, since the elderly often have larger homes and more empty bedrooms, said chairman David Reed.

"This is a great tool to do what Jesus said, to give cups of cold water to people in need," Collingsworth said. "There are times when I was younger and struggling that it would have been nice to have that option offered."

Henry's vision for the unique ministry goes back some 30 years, when he was a young pastor attending North Orleans Seminary.

En route to an annual convention he slept in his car on the way because he couldn't afford a hotel room. That week, he slept at the YMCA.

On the return trip, he stopped at a church's Wednesday night service, where a couple invited him to stay in their home, Collingsworth said.

While the Orlando Local Arrangements Committee working with the SBC Executive Committee coordinates special housing requests, Collingsworth said this is the first time a church in a host city has organized a lodging program.

In addition to housing, the 10,000-member church will host a free luncheon for visitors and host families on Sunday, June 11, before the annual Pastors' Conference begins.

Lodging is extended a day after the convention to allow guests to visit area tourist attractions.

The committee is setting up a database of visitors and volunteers, as well as using computer technology to track its planning for the June event. While the task requires many hours, Collingsworth said it will be time well spent.

"I hope it brings people together," Collingsworth added. "Our people have experienced hospitality from going into other people's homes."

"Some make friendships that last a lifetime," he said.

## Todd named to SACS commission

Howell W. Todd, president since 1994 of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, has been elected to the Commission on Colleges of the regional accrediting association, The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

SACS accredits more than 780 colleges and universities throughout the southeastern region of the U.S. and in Latin America. Founded in 1895 and headquartered in Decatur, Ga., the organization is one of six regional accreditation organizations in the U.S. and counts as members more than 12,000 public and private institutions from private universities down to pre-kindergarten level.

Todd's duties as a member of the commission will include setting standards for membership, conducting reviews and taking final action on accreditations, and overseeing the commission's administrative staff.



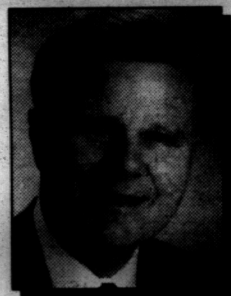
Todd

### AN EXTRA DAY

In just a few days we will be the recipients of an extra day. One shiny, bright, "filled-with-opportunities," "spring-is-almost-here" kind of day — February 29! Actually, it is not an extra day that we are given in this 366-day year, but in reality it is a "catch-up" day. While we grow up learning that a year is 365 days, more accurately each year is 365 and 1/4th days. So, every four years an extra day is slapped on the calendar in February in order to keep everything in sync.

For those of us who are not scientists and certainly not astronomers, it just looks like we get one more day in which to...? That's the question I would like to raise: an extra day in which to do what? Have you thought about what you are going to do with your bonus day in this leap year?

Since it appears as though we are getting one more day in which to live in this year 2000, it might be good for us to consider the stewardship of our time. In some ways time is the most valuable commodity we have.



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

That is especially true for the Christian, but it is also true for virtually everyone. Think about it — anything and everything you have or want, when you extract time, not only becomes insignificant but can appear to look silly or even mock you.

Think about the story that Jesus told about the wealthy planter. The farmer had a great crop and it was obvious the harvest was going to be HUGE! Since he did not have enough storage space, he tore down his barns and built larger ones. The crop came in, he filled up the barns, and life was good. At that point, according to Jesus, the man sat back and said, "Soul, take your ease. Eat, drink and be merry for you have goods laid up for many years." Then God

spoke, "This night thy soul shall be required of thee." Instead of years, he had minutes.

I am confident that many of you who may be reading this article know that God said of that man, "Thou fool." Without argument, the man was a fool. Foolish because, appearing to have almost everything in life together, he was wrong at almost every turn. He was wrong in his values — he considered things more important than time. He was wrong in his vision — he saw life limitless rather than concluded...that night. He was wrong in his vanity — he actually believed he was the one in control of life. He spoke to the essence of life and said, "Soul, you are in good shape."

Back to the question before us: If we have opportunity to live February 29, maybe this is the lesson that is at the top of life's priority list — "If you live life without God, things are distorted and time is misspent."

The Psalmist said, "This is the day that the Lord hath made, I will rejoice and be glad in it." Why not, on this day that appears to be a special, unusual, and extra day, use it in a way that will focus on the Lord and act a little bit out of the norm?

◆ Begin the day with a special prayer asking God to make you sensitive to the unique opportunities he will present you on this extra day.

◆ Pick up the phone and call someone with whom you have not spoken in over six months, and let them know you couldn't go another day without making contact with them.

◆ Pick out at least one person who may not like you and spend a few minutes in prayer asking God to bless them.

◆ Find a quiet place, sit down with your Bible, and read 1 Cor. 13.

◆ Determine to share with at least one person, one time, on this one day, your personal witness of what Jesus means to you.

◆ Write a brief, personal note thanking someone who you have never told before how much you appreciate his or her life and influence.

The list can be much longer, but let me stop and ask you to fill in the blank:

"If God were to tell me that I have one day left to live, the one thing that I would want to be sure to do would be..."

The only day that would be better than February 29th on which to do that would be today.

February 29th — an extra day. "It is the day that the Lord hath made, rejoice and be glad in it."

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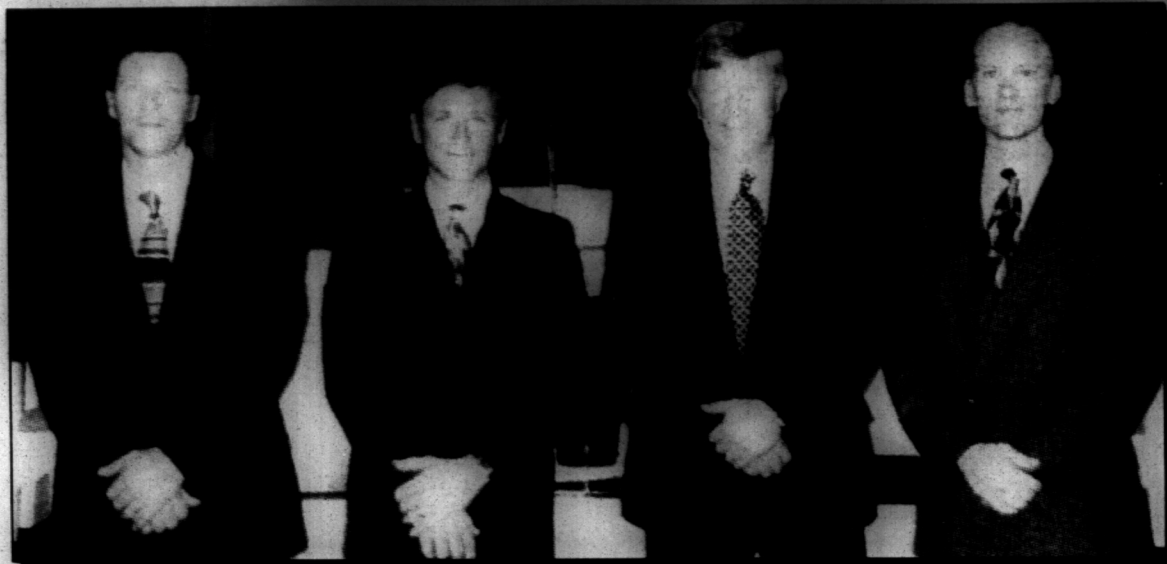
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Ordination service at Holly Springs Church, Foxworth

Holly Springs Church, Foxworth, recently ordained Greg Smith, Ray Windham, and Smitty Bracey. Pictured (from left) are Smith, Windham, Bracey, and Billy James, pastor.

Randy Ashley recently earned the doctor of ministry

degree from Mid-America Seminary in Germantown, Tenn. He has been the pastor of Holcomb Church, North Central Association, since 1992.

DeVon L. Byrd Sr., of Hattiesburg, is available for supply or interim pastor or to

lead groups in "applied scriptural teachings through adventure recreation" at Byrdland Ministries in Hattiesburg. Byrd pastored 12 years in

Mississippi prior to becoming director/administrator of the Southeast Baptist Assembly in Loranger, La. He can be contacted at (601) 544-7407.



Terry Pickens, music director, a graduate of New Orleans Seminary music department two year undergraduate program, was recently honored by Liberty Church, Union Co. Presenting the certificate of appreciation (pictured from left) are Shawn Davis, pastor, and Pickens.

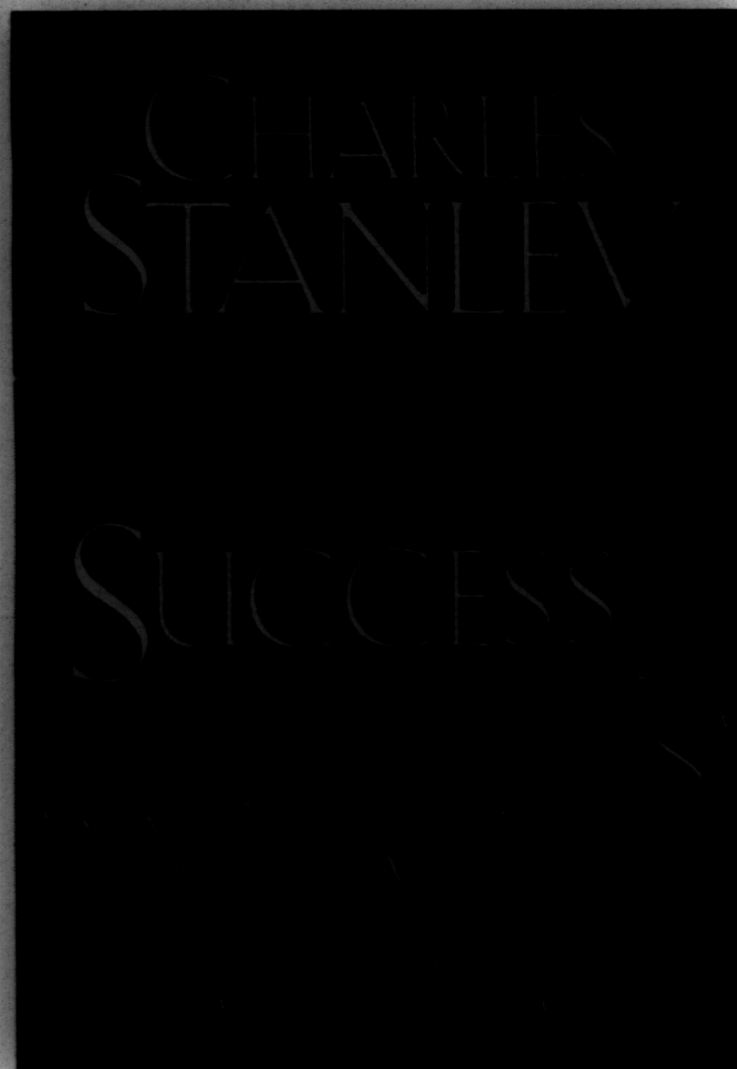
## Merritt to accept SBC presidential nomination

SNELLVILLE, Ga. (BP) — Atlanta-area pastor James Merritt has agreed to be nominated as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and if elected he would be the first baby-boomer to lead the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Merritt, 47, pastor of First Church, Snellville, Ga., also would become the seventh Georgian to hold the position, the most recent being Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta.

Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church in Dallas, said he will nominate Merritt to the SBC's top post. "I feel very confident and enthusiastic about the prospect of James being the first president elected in the 21st century," Graham said. "I believe he is the unilateral choice of conservatives across the convention."

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WCC Theatre Department

**William Carey College Theatre Department members are:** (back row, standing) Joseph Brack of Whitman, Mass., Jeremy Turcotte of Hattiesburg, Jonathan Watts of McComb, Jonathan Pope Evans of Falkville, Ala., Jonathan Hill of Southaven, Shane Weaver of Gainesville, Fla., Christopher Gaskin of West Point, and Charlie Wallace of Hattiesburg; (middle row, seated) Karen Bowlby of Zachary, La., Candace Rose Perez of Ocean Springs, Kristina Lucka of Bratislava, Slovakia, Denise Calegan of Carriere, Naomi Hurtienne of Hattiesburg, and Katie Hurtienne of Hattiesburg; (front row, seated) Kristi Allen of Biloxi, Tabitha Frizzell of Florence, Kelly James of Meridian, Amanda Hughes of Louisville, Ky., Jenifer Azulay of Ormand, Fla.,

Hannah Wilkerson of Huntsville, Ala., and Leslie Barker of Clinton. The two performances of "Crow and Weasel," was first presented on the college's campus in October and then was entered in the Mississippi/Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival in November.

Carol Kirk of Clinton, is a member of the concert and marching bands and also helped form and directs the college percussion ensemble. Rushing, son of Larry and Tracie Rushing of Crystal Springs, is the keyboardist for the Naturals and a member of the concert and marching bands.



WCC Speech and Debate Team

As a result of the presentation at the state festival, it was selected for the regional festival. This is the third time in four years for Carey to be chosen as one of six collegiate productions in the southeastern region of the United States.

**The Mississippi College Music Department** will present Casey Kirk, percussionist and Michael Rushing, pianist, in a joint recital on Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. Kirk, son of Jerry and

**Radio personality** and author R. Scott Brunner will share his philosophy, essays, and wit with the Library Associates on Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. in the Mississippi College Learning Resource Center. In "Due South: Dispatches from Down Home," the Mississippi public radio commentator and national public radio contributor to "All Things Considered" reflects upon the unique way of life that flourishes south of the Mason Dixon line and the way in which the culture affects family, relationships, and values. Brunner will sign copies of his book following the meeting.

**The Mississippi College Speech and Debate Team** competed in the "Red River Swing" speech tournament at Louisiana State University, Shreveport, Feb. 4-6. The team consisted of Sonya Dickens of Seminary, Natalie Hartley of Jackson, and Brett Harvey of Byram.

**The William Carey College Speech and Debate Team** (pictured, from left, back row) are Josh Vandenbrink, Emanuel Buckley, Jason Ruiz, William Reynolds, Matthew Smith, Chris Smith, Darren Van Micheal, director of forensics, (front row) Emily Strickland, Mandy Trammell, Jennifer Robinson, Samantha Cottrell, and Mandy Mzingo. Not pictured are Ron Durbin and Dusty Little. The team placed first overall at the Houston Area Forensics League Tournament held as part of a swing tournament hosted by McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La. The team placed first in Individual Events Sweepstakes. The team also placed first overall at the "I Have a Dream" swing tournament also held at McNeese State University.

## Brogan to head CBF state missions

Richard Brogan of Clinton has been named Mississippi missions coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Mississippi (CBFM).

Brogan, 62, retired recently after 36 years as a pastor, seminary president, and consultant in the Strategic Initiatives department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

He said he hopes to develop several missions projects in Mississippi where



Brogan

CBFM volunteers can focus on long-term, ongoing ministries rather than one-time projects.

"We don't want to duplicate anything anything already being done by others, but we do want to cooperate with other Christian groups in areas of the state which need help in bringing about change and empowering people to move beyond where they are now," he said.

Brogan, a member of Northside Church, Clinton, retired at the end of 1999 as MBCB consultant for black church extension, chaplaincy, seminary extension, and students who came to Mississippi for summer missions.

Previously, he worked with National Baptists for the state convention and was president of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary in Jackson. He also served pastor of First Church, Soso, in Jones Association.

For more information on CBFM missions projects, contact Brogan at (601) 355-7824.

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• Organ workshop featuring Hazleton at the console of the Allen Renaissance 370  
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Reservations for the workshop must be made no later than February 21.

You may contact Patsy Simpson at 601-956-9047 or toll-free at 800-783-3056. Visit our website at [www.churchorgan.com](http://www.churchorgan.com) or e-mail us at [info@churchorgan.com](mailto:info@churchorgan.com).

"A master of the King of Instruments," according to the Los Angeles Times, Tom Hazleton is considered to be one of the few concert organists equally at home at the console of classical and theatre organs.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

Over 350 men and boys attended a wild game supper on Feb. 6 at First Church, Kosciusko. The event was a ministry of the Brotherhood. Guest speakers were David Fortenberry and Gene Hoyt, outdoor evangelists from Amite, La. Five professions of faith and 19 rededications were registered. Barry C. Corbett is pastor.

### Trace Pointe Retirement and Assisted Living

Community in Clinton has announced that Clinton native Dan Gore has been named Executive Director of Trace Pointe, effective Feb. 1. Gore will be



Gore

responsible for coordinating the operations of the Trace Point community, which includes a 100-unit assisted living center, adult day health services facility, senior medical clinic, and rehabilitation facility. Trace Pointe's first units opened in Fall 1999. For more information, call (800) 948-6262.

The Singing Echoes will be in concert at Zion Hill Church, Wesson, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.

The Singing Echoes and Family Tradition will be in concert at Leesburg Church, Morton, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m.

Drawn Together from Mississippi State University - Baptist Student Union (MSU - BSU) will be singing at Broadmoor Church, Madison, Feb. 27, in the 6 p.m. service.



Drawn Together

The students (from left) are Robert Sims, Sarah McDonnell, Kathryn Hill, Elizabeth Blake, and Ryan Lindsay. The group is also available to do youth

activities, banquets, and retreats. For more information, contact MSU - BSU, P. O. Box BU, Mississippi State, MS 39762 or call (662) 323-5761.

## Revival dates

**Drew, Drew:** March 19-22; Sunday, services at 10:50 a.m., followed by potluck luncheon and services at 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., lunch at 11:45 a.m., followed by noon services, and 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, evangelist; Ian Richardson, worship leader.

**Woolmarket, Biloxi:** Feb 25-27; Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., potluck supper at 5:30 p.m., services at 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, evangelist; Bob Chichester, music; Paul Crowley, pastor.

## Cleveland minister of 37 years to be honored Feb. 27

By Jimmy Breland  
Special Correspondent

CLEVELAND, MS (Special) — Milton Burd, minister of music, education, and senior adults at First Church, Cleveland, is retiring after 37 years of ministry.

The 11:00 a.m. worship ser-

vice on February 27 has been designated a special anniversary service in honor of Burd. A reception will be held that afternoon in the fellowship hall from 2-4:30 p.m.

Burd, a native of Louisville, Ky., and a graduate of Southern Seminary, was called to First Church, Cleveland, as minister

of music and education on Dec. 30, 1962. He began his ministry in Cleveland with his wife, Jerry, and children, Terry and Cindy, on February 17, 1963.

A choir program for children and youth was begun under his leadership, and an enhanced adult choir program was implemented. As a talented musician himself, many worship services, have been blessed with his solo presentations.

Burd also established the tradition of the Singing Christmas Tree in 1966. The Singing Christmas tree was an all-girl choir which performed on a tiered platform designed in the shape of a Christmas tree. Under his direction, the group expanded to a total of 70 girls and toured extensively.

Several years prior to his retirement, Burd assumed responsibility for the senior adult ministry. This ministry has grown steadily and has been so effective the church has

asked him to serve as part-time minister of senior adults after he retires.

Burd's wife, Jerry, has coordinated the church's nursery department for many years and provided leadership to expand and enhance the facilities for young children. She recently retired as an elementary school teacher in the Cleveland school district.

Friends and associates of the Burds are invited to write a letter of commendation in recognition of their ministry. The letters will be compiled in a memory book. See letter on opposite page.

The family of First Church, Cleveland, has been richly blessed by the longevity of service of such faithful servants. It is our hope that many friends of Milton and Jerry Burd can join us on Sunday, Feb. 27.

Breland is the retired Baptist Student Union Director for Delta State University and a member of First Church, Cleveland.



Burd

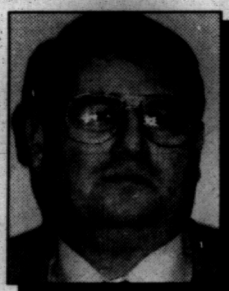
## STAFF CHANGES

Clarkson Church, Maben, has called Tim Hudson from New Hope Church, Monticello. He and his family are already on the church field.

William G. "Billy" Dowdy Jr. is the director of missions for Warren and Yazoo associations, effective Feb.

1. He is a graduate of William Carey College. Dowdy previously served as pastor at West Union Church, Pearl River Association, 1987-2000. He also served at Tusumbia, Booneville; New Hope, Meadville; and First, Overt.

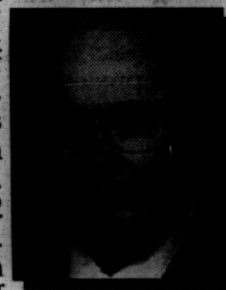
Billy Thomas has been called to Eastwood Church,



Dowdy

Indianola, as pastor, effective the first of February. A native of Jackson,

Thomas has been in Lafayette, La. for the past 12 years. Thomas is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.



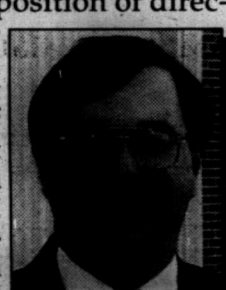
Thomas

Park Haven Church, Laurel, has called Jerry Welborn as minister of music. Welborn served 25 years at First Church, Sharon, and other area churches in Jones County.

Calvary Church, Oxford, has called J.E. Sims as pastor effective Jan. 1. Sims is a graduate of William Carey College and Bethany Theological Seminary. His previous place of service was Fellowship Church, Starkville.

Dionne Williams has accepted the position of director of education and ministry at the Gulf Coast Association in Gulfport.

Williams formerly served at First Church, Gulfport, where he was minister of education. He can be reached at P. O. Box 2369, Gulfport, MS 39505 or e-mail: dwilliams-gc-ba@aol.com.



Williams



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# Homer Lindsay Jr. succumbs to lymphoma

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Homer G. Lindsay Jr., co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., died Feb. 13 as a result of complications from cancer. He was 72.

Lindsay, who pastored one of the Southern Baptist Convention's largest congregations, was diagnosed with lymphoma on Feb. 4, just one day after the funeral of his son, Homer Lindsay III. The younger Lindsay died Jan. 28 after suffering a heart attack.

The elder Lindsay was admitted to St. Luke's Hospital early Feb. 13 in grave condition. He had started chemotherapy on Feb. 6 for a cancerous mass found at the base of his spine.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley, and three daughters.



Lindsay

John Sullivan, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, said Lindsay was the most single-focused pastor he knew. "His entire life and ministry was soul-winning," Sullivan said.

Sullivan noted that Lindsay's church baptized more persons than any other church in the Florida Baptist Convention. In 1999, 860 new believers were baptized there.

"Dr. Lindsay believed and preached the Bible consistently. You never wondered about his commitment to the Bible as God's Word. One of his meaningful contributions to our denomination was his insistence on the inerrancy of Scripture," Sullivan said.

Homer Gentry Lindsay Jr. was born July 10, 1927, in Nashville, Tenn., to Ruth and Homer G. Lindsay Sr. When Homer Jr. was 13

years old, his father moved the family to Jacksonville where the senior Lindsay accepted the call to fill the pulpit at First Church.

Lindsay Jr. accepted the call to the gospel ministry at the age of 16 and his first ministry assignment was to teach a Sunday School class of 9-year-old girls.

After briefly attending Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., Lindsay transferred and later graduated from Stetson University in DeLand, Fla. From there, Lindsay attended Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He graduated in 1952.

That summer, Lindsay met Shirley Tillman, his future wife, at a Southern Baptist Convention meeting. In September of that same year, they were married and he accepted the pastorate of a 42-member church mission in Miami.

Lindsay returned to First Church, Jacksonville, in 1969 to become co-pastor with his father. Lindsay's arrival at First Church marked an era of unprecedented growth. From 1969 to 1988, Sunday School enrollment increased from 2,385 to 14,172.

Just before Christmas, Lindsay stunned the congregation and staff by announcing his decision to step down after 31 years at First Church.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

### APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

Editor:

Trinity Church of Southaven, has just completed building 12 senior adult apartments. We have three buildings with four apartments in each building with a common area for visiting in each building. We have studio, one bedroom, and two bedroom apartments for rent. We will rent on a month to month basis. We pay all utilities except phone and furnish six noon meals a week. This is not

an assisted living complex. Contact Rev. John Miller at Trinity Baptist Church, (601) 349-3333 for more information.

John Miller  
Southaven

### BURD RETIRING

Editor:

In recognition of Milton Burd's retirement after 37 years as minister of education and for his years of service in a broad range of leadership roles at First Church, Cleveland, Bolivar County, and the state, the First Church family has designated Sunday, Feb. 27, as a special anniversary service during the 11 a.m. worship hour. A reception to honor Milton and Jerry Burd will be held on the same date in the fellowship hall of First Church from 2-4:30 p.m. You are also invited to write

a letter of commendation to Milton, or jointly to Milton and Jerry, in recognition of the ministry they have provided. These letters will be compiled in a memory book for the Burds.

The First Church family has been richly blessed by the longevity of service of such faithful servants. It is our hope that you can join us on this Sunday, Feb. 27.

Karen Naron  
Personnel Committee  
First Church, Cleveland

### CAMPAIGN MISLEADING

Editor:

With regard to your front page coverage of the inauguration of Governor Ronnie Musgrove, I think it was misleading for him to preach no negative campaigning and then do so much negative sound bites. That is relative

to another Democrat we have in the White House and I might also mention he is Southern Baptist.

I wish him well.  
D. V. Sparks  
Shannon

### HELP FELLOW PASTOR

Editor:

On January 24, the house of Billy Ray Blackwell was completely destroyed by fire. The family was away at the time. Among the many personal things which were lost were his many books, sermons from 30 years of preaching, and even the Bible from which he preached. On the following Sunday he preached from a borrowed Bible.

As a fellow pastor, I can't imagine what it would be like to experience such loss. I plan to share books from my own library and sermons if he desires them. I would like to ask the pastors of our great Mississippi Baptist Convention to join with me to help a fellow pastor get back on his feet. Will you help?

You may respond by contacting me at Calvary Church, 615 South Street, Waynesboro, MS 39367. Telephone (601) 735-2333 or (601) 735-9522.

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**PARADISE LANES:** Mississippi's only smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS, (601) 372-7700.

**MONROE, LA** - North Monroe Baptist Church - seeking minister to adults. Send resumes to Judy Matkins, 186 Woodland Rd., Monroe, LA 71203; Fax 318-323-4116; e-mail: matkins@bayou.com; phone 318-322-3284.

**SEEKING FULL TIME PASTOR.** Seasonal San Juan Mt. community. First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 519, Lake City, CO 81235.

**PASSION PLAY** in Germany this year. First class tours available. Contact Rev. Chuck Moody in Louisville, MS. 662-773-6048 or 662-773-3693.

**MIN OF MUSIC** new to Jackson seeks work. FT/PT/supply/revivals. Eight years experience. Excellent references. Call 601-206-1163.

**ATTENTION:** committed couples to work full-time with "at-risk" children in residential setting. Opportunities throughout Alabama. Minimum HS diploma. Benefits include BC/BS PMD, TDA, life insurance, sick leave, vacation, living expenses. Call 1-800-548-4256 or write to Box 240009 Montgomery, AL 36124-0009.

**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED** Prefer someone beginning seminary this summer or fall. Hillcrest Baptist Church, Franklinton, La. Phone 504-839-4703.

**CFI — PEWS, NEW & used.** Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & ALA. 1-800-830-0583.

**RESUMES ARE BEING SOUGHT** from those who desire to be considered as Director of Missions for the Madison Baptist Association in Huntsville, Alabama. 82 churches with 48,000 members. Send resumes to Dr. Walter G. Nunn, Chairman of Search Committee, 1007 Speake Road, Huntsville, AL 35816. Deadline is March 15.

**NORTH MONROE BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking minister of music. Send resume to Joe Lane, 109 Susan Drive, West Monroe, La. 71291. Fax 318-322-2718; home 318-396-8467; or 318-325-0601.

**WANTED: MISSIONARY-MINDED COUPLE** to serve the Lord in a home caring for children needing a place to live. This evangelical organization has been meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children for 103 years. Not a behavior modification facility. Competitive salary and other compensations which include housing, food, insurance, and retirement. Call Mr. Taylor at Palmer Home for Children 601-328-5216.

### MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR AND** part-time Youth Director needed at Trinity Baptist Church of Rankin County. Please contact Rev. Kenny Goff at 601-939-6622 for more information if interested.

**CHURCH SECRETARY** - Walker Hill Baptist Church, Brandon, MS. Part-time, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., M-F. Call Bro. Robert Netterville 601-825-6210.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Eastwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751. Call 601-887-4404.

**CHURCH PIANIST NEEDED** for Wednesdays and Sundays. Duties include playing for worship services, prayer meeting, and choir rehearsals. For more information, please call Susan at Paul Truitt Memorial Baptist Church, Pearl at (601) 939-2975.

**NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH** - Searching for full-time associate pastor with emphasis in youth, activities, and pastoral care ministries. Mail resume to Johnny Sykes, 2404 New Sight Dr., Brookhaven, MS 39601.



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Be hospitable

3 John 1-14

By Carl M. White

Earlier in the life of the church, the need for supporting those called into vocational Christian service arose. In this personal letter to a friend, the Apostle John gives focus to this obligation and warning about those who would abuse this blessing.

**Rejoice over faithfulness (vv. 1-4).** Like 2 John, the third letter of John is a personal note to a friend named Gaius. William Barclay says that in the New Testament world, Gaius was one of the most common of names. Exactly who this man is and his relationship to John is unknown. Acts 19 tells of a Gaius who was a companion of Paul's. Acts 20 tells of a Gaius of Derbe, and another Gaius is identified in I Cor. 1:14. He

could be any of the three, or a different man altogether.

John celebrates the news he has received that Gaius is "walking in the truth." Faithfulness is something to rejoice about in the Christian life. After all, this is the goal of Christian ministry, that men and women come to know Jesus and learn to walk faithfully in the truth.

**Support vocational Christian workers (vv. 5-8).** One aspect of the faithful walk is supporting those who are called to vocational Christian ministry. John had learned from "the brethren," apparently a reference to the fellowship of Christian ministers, how Gaius accepted them and helped

them, even when they were strangers to him.

The support of Christian ministers is justified, John indicates, for three reasons. First, the ministers went out in the name of Jesus. (v. 7). Knowing Jesus, following Jesus, and proclaiming Jesus was their only motivation in entering

the ministry.

Second, they received no other support. Specifically, they turned away from any kind of support from non-believers. That meant they were totally dependent on the support of Christians.

Third, when Gaius supports them he becomes a part of their ministry. "Fellow workers with the truth," are John's exact words.

These same reasons hold true today. We are to support Christian ministries and ministers because of the single focus of their calling, their rejection of worldly support, and because it becomes a means for our involve-

ment in a broader ministry.

**Oppose arrogant leaders (vv. 9-10).** John also warns Gaius about an arrogant leader named Diotrephes. The identity of this man remains a mystery, for this name does not appear in any other New Testament writing. John chooses not to deal in specifics, saying at the end of the letter that he had many more things to write, but would save it for a face to face meeting. However, it is clear that Diotrephes presents a problem for four reasons.

First, this is a man in the ministry who "loves to be first." (9). Our Lord declared that the basis for Christian ministry was to be different from that in the world. Christian leadership would be marked by servanthood, or being last, not first.

Second, Diotrephes had trouble accepting John's authority. Apparently very early in the development of the church, a chain of authority emerged. High on that list were the disci-

ples of Christ, also known as the Apostles. Diotrephes would not accept this authority.

Third, Diotrephes made accusations against John and the Apostles. (v. 10). While the specifics are not mentioned, John does qualify Diotrephes' words with the adjective "wicked."

Finally, this man would not receive the fellowship of "the brethren," and forbids others to do so.

Sound familiar? It is amazing how the problems of almost 2000 years ago are as contemporary as today's newspaper. John's advice to his friend Gaius is to oppose this type of person.

We are called to support legitimate vocational Christian ministers and ministries. At the same time we are to avoid the kind of arrogance that resists authority, speaks evil of other believers, and forces people to separate. Imitate the good, John says.

*White is a member of First Church, Clinton.*

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Death on our behalf

Matthew 27:38-54

By Lynn Jones

At highway intersections and along roadways, I often see crosses. Sometimes they are decorated with flowers. The reason for these crosses? They mark the spots where persons have been killed in automobile accidents. Members of the families of those who have been killed have put the crosses in place to help them and others remember their loved ones.

At the crossroads of history stands a rugged cross. It is a perpetual reminder of the death of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Have you experienced forgiveness and life at that cross? Have you told anyone else about it.

**Dying for sinners (vv. 38-44).** When Jesus was crucified, two other men called "thieves" were crucified on either side of him. Since robbery was not a capital offense, it is likely that these men were also guilty of more serious crimes (Mark 15:7).

In addition to the two "sinners" hanging on crosses on either side of Jesus, there were other "sinners" as well. The sins of these other "sinners" were more subtle but were just as real. These men were probably members of the highest religious council in Jerusalem, the Sanhedrin (v. 41). They came out to the cross as an expression of their hatred. They called to the

one who could destroy and build the temple in three days to come down from the cross (John 2:19-22). Jesus refused to do so. They also charged that he had saved others but that he could not save himself.

These religious leaders spoke more truth than they knew. Jesus had determined to give himself in order to save others. In doing so, he could not save himself.

A small boy who wore a T-shirt with this message imprinted: "Don't kidnap me, my parents won't pay." The good news for us is that Jesus Christ was willing to pay the ultimate price for our salvation.

**Dying in darkness (vv. 45-49).** As Jesus was hanging on the cross, darkness descended on that hill at noon ("the sixth hour") and remained until three o'clock in the afternoon ("the ninth hour"). This dark-

ness expressed the sorrow of the Father and all of creation over the death of the Son of God. It also symbolized the darkness in the hearts of the religious leaders and of the two thieves who deepened the suffering of the Savior by their words of disrespect and hatred.

Near the end of this period of time, Jesus uttered his awful cry, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" In this moment when the sinless Son of God bore the sins of the world, the perfect fellowship that he had always known with the father was broken. He cried out in the agony of that separation.

Cleaning anything makes something else dirty. Water used to wash clothes becomes dirty with the stain that was on the clothes. Cloths used to wipe a table become dirty with what was on the table. In the same way, as Jesus died to cleanse us from our sins, he became dirty with the stain of our sins. What a huge

price he paid for our salvation!

**Dying with affirmation (vv. 50-54).** Jesus uttered a final great cry from the cross (John 19:30). After this final cry, a series of powerful events occurred. The veil in the temple was torn. An earthquake rattled the earth. Persons came out of their graves.

As a Roman centurion observed these things, he said, "Truly this was the Son of God." As we examine the events of the cross, it should lead us to make a similar confession. As we make that confession, we can experience salvation.

A small girl pointed to the cross on the church steeple, high above street level. As she did so, she asked her mother, "Mother, why does the church have a plus sign?" We do have a plus sign. The cross of Jesus Christ reminds us of the death of Christ on our behalf. What a plus!

*Jones is pastor of First Church, Booneville.*

## LIFE AND WORK

### Evidence of faithfulness

Revelation 2:8-11; 3:7-13

By Michael Jones

Success, how do you define it? How does your church define success? Today, it is all too easy to fall into the trap of the world and believe that success is measured by wealth, status, size or numbers. We measure success in our career by how much we make. We measure success in our social life by the status we achieve. We measure success in our home by the size of the house we build or the expense it took to build and decorate it. It is easy, as a church, to view our success by the number of people we have

in Sunday School or the size of our buildings, or the amount of our budget. What we must come to understand is that the Lord defines success in a very different way. In fact, sometimes the way God measures success appears to be failure to the rest of the world. So how does God measure success in our lives and our churches?

**Overcoming opposition (2:8-11)** One way in which God measures our faithfulness is by overcoming opposition. The church at Smyrna was told because of their faithfulness in overcoming opposition they

would receive "the crown of life." As a result of this, the church at Smyrna is known as the "crowned church." The church obviously faced much opposition and according to God's word to them, they would continue to face opposition. The Lord encouraged them, even in the face of this opposition, to come, to remain faithful "even to the point of death." In doing so, they would overcome and receive the victory.

As individual Christians and in our churches, we are certain to face opposition. The opposition may come in the form of people or with the external world, but we must remember, "For our struggles are not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" - Ephesians

6:12 How will we stand? Will we remain faithful even to "the point of death?" According to this passage, this is one evidence of faithfulness.

**Seizing opportunities (3:7-8a)** The church at Philadelphia was "placed before an open door," an opportunity. This opportunity came from the Lord and because of that, "no one could shut it." Philadelphia was situated in an important place and was known as the gateway to the East. Its location gave the church a great opportunity. Another evidence of our faithfulness is seizing the opportunities the Lord gives us. Many times God opens a door, but for one reason or another, we do not seize the opportunity and walk through that door. What opportunities are we missing by not seizing them when the Lord offers them.

**Remaining obedient (3:8b-13)** Quite possibly, the church at Philadelphia was a small one

and did not have much strength. In spite of this, they remained faithful and obedient to God's word. Because of this, a promise was made to them that they would be justified before their opposition, would be protected from the "hour of trial" and would have eternal life with God.

Remaining obedient in the face of all the opposition and in the midst of weakness is also an evidence of our faithfulness to Christ. It involves keeping his word even in our weakest moments.

What evidence of faithfulness can be found in your life or in your church? Are you overcoming opposition, seizing the opportunities the Lord is placing before you and remaining obedient to his word? Remember, this is what the Lord looks for in judging one's success.

*Jones is associate pastor/youth minister at Monticello Church, Monticello.*





# THE VILLAGE VIEW

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## Honor Roll of Churches

*Each January we evaluate the cash gifts received by The Baptist Children's Village during the previous 12 months. In this evaluation it has become customary to list the Mississippi Baptist churches in descending order of their designated cash gifts. This does not include non-cash gift items that many churches contribute. This evaluation and analysis has become known as the "Honor Roll of Churches."*

RANK	CHURCH NAME/ CITY	1999 GIFTS	RANK	CHURCH NAME/ CITY	1999 GIFTS	RANK	CHURCH NAME/ CITY	1999 GIFTS
1.	First Baptist Church, Water Valley	\$24,100.62	80.	North Greenwood Baptist Church, Greenwood	4,441.80	159.	Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church, Philadelphia	2,600.00
2.	Wildwood Baptist Church, Laurel	20,163.73	81.	First Baptist Church, Abbeville	4,392.13	160.	Oak Hill Baptist Church, Pontotoc	2,600.00
3.	First Baptist Church, Corinth	18,137.98	82.	Riverside Baptist Church, Monticello	4,312.11	161.	Rock Hill Baptist Church, Brandon	2,597.12
4.	Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton	15,474.90	83.	North Winona Baptist Church, Winona	4,307.24	162.	Ephesus Baptist Church, Forest	2,590.00
5.	Immanuel Baptist Church, Vicksburg	15,254.24	84.	Beulah Baptist Church, Myrtle	4,170.40	163.	Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson	2,570.02
6.	First Baptist Church, Kosciusko	14,171.50	85.	Springfield Baptist Church, Morton	4,166.00	164.	Clarke-Venable Baptist Church, Decatur	2,555.56
7.	Hillcrest Baptist Church, Jackson	14,076.00	86.	First Baptist Church, Coldwater	4,135.00	165.	Newhebron Baptist Church, Newhebron	2,540.79
8.	Russell Baptist Church, Meridian	13,243.76	87.	Holcomb Baptist Church, Holcomb	4,123.34	166.	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, New Albany	2,520.50
9.	Calvary Baptist Church, Waynesboro	12,287.00	88.	Big Creek Baptist Church, Big Creek	4,113.66	167.	Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	2,505.00
10.	Leaf River Baptist Church, Collins	12,048.00	89.	Meadville Baptist Church, Meadville	4,096.56	168.	First Baptist Church, Holly Springs	2,505.00
11.	Bunker Hill Baptist Church, Columbia	11,774.74	90.	Parkway Baptist Church, Kosciusko	4,096.16	169.	Siloam Baptist Church, Magee	2,504.14
12.	State Boulevard Baptist Church, Meridian	11,739.96	91.	Bethany Baptist Church, Calhoun City	4,069.00	170.	Pine Forest Baptist Church, Collinsville	2,500.00
13.	Van Winkle Baptist Church, Jackson	11,575.00	92.	Liberty Baptist Church, New Albany	4,014.00	171.	West Kemper Baptist Church, De Kalb	2,500.00
14.	First Baptist Church, Quitman	11,476.00	93.	Walthall Baptist Church, Walthall	3,985.00	172.	Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus	2,500.00
15.	Rolling Creek Baptist Church, Quitman	11,377.87	94.	Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Bruce	3,950.00	173.	Union Baptist Church, Meridian	2,493.85
16.	First Baptist Church, Louisville	10,904.34	95.	Liberty Baptist Church, Toomsaba	3,842.73	174.	Friendship Baptist Church, McComb	2,486.24
17.	Ackerman Baptist Church, Ackerman	10,072.75	96.	First Baptist Church, Columbia	3,795.00	175.	Deer Creek Baptist Church	2,484.06
18.	Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Newton	9,880.38	97.	First Baptist Church, Taylorsville	3,750.00	176.	Crowder Baptist Church, Crowder	2,477.25
19.	First Baptist Church, Union	9,413.00	98.	New Harmony Baptist Church, Blue Springs	3,721.49	177.	First Baptist Church, Grenada	2,477.00
20.	First Baptist Church, McComb	9,105.09	99.	Trinity First Baptist Church, Waynesboro	3,717.08	178.	Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson	2,472.02
21.	First Baptist Church, Canton	8,996.85	100.	First Baptist Church, Waynesboro	3,707.00	179.	Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson	2,460.00
22.	Highland Baptist Church, Vicksburg	8,887.00	101.	Handsboro Baptist Church, Gulfport	3,684.00	180.	Heuck's Retreat Baptist Church, Brookhaven	2,454.40
23.	First Baptist Church, Richton	8,739.85	102.	First Baptist Church, Vancleave	3,650.00	181.	Sturgis Baptist Church, Sturgis	2,452.25
24.	First Baptist Church, Brookhaven	8,559.58	103.	Old Silver Creek Baptist Church, Silver Creek	3,534.63	182.	Cairo Baptist Church, Ecu	2,424.91
25.	Liberty Baptist Church, Liberty	8,533.97	104.	Providence Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	3,526.00	183.	Ellistown Baptist Church, Blue Springs	2,423.00
26.	Indian Springs Baptist Church, Petal	8,430.00	105.	Wildwood Baptist Church, Clinton	3,512.10	184.	D'Lo Baptist Church, D'Lo	2,395.45
27.	Harmony Baptist Church, Crystal Springs	7,928.59	106.	Hurricane Creek Baptist Church, Sandy Hook	3,489.46	185.	Macedonia Baptist Church, Tupelo	2,382.07
28.	Briar Hill Baptist Church, Florence	7,730.00	107.	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Brookhaven	3,483.00	186.	First Baptist Church, Belzoni	2,382.01
29.	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Dumas	7,500.00	108.	Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Mendenhall	3,475.00	187.	High Hill Baptist Church, Philadelphia	2,373.25
30.	First Baptist Church, Gulfport	7,238.67	109.	Carrollton Baptist Church, Carrollton	3,394.53	188.	Short Creek Baptist Church, Yazoo City	2,373.00
31.	First Baptist Church, Picayune	7,220.51	110.	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	3,387.00	189.	First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	2,370.00
32.	Williamsville Baptist Church, Kosciusko	7,159.00	111.	Kolola Springs Baptist Church, Caledonia	3,386.12	190.	Grays Creek Baptist Church, Hernando	2,366.83
33.	Sand Hill Baptist Church, Richton	6,769.00	112.	Ruleville Baptist Church, Ruleville	3,384.00	191.	DeKalb Baptist Church, DeKalb	2,345.00
34.	First Baptist Church, Booneville	6,720.25	113.	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mendenhall	3,380.41	192.	Stanton Baptist Church, Natchez	2,343.50
35.	Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	6,609.00	114.	East Philadelphia Baptist Church, Philadelphia	3,362.14	193.	First Baptist Church-Glendale, Hattiesburg	2,321.19
36.	Topisaw Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	6,544.29	115.	First Baptist Church, Batesville	3,305.00	194.	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Meridian	2,310.00
37.	Raymond Baptist Church, Raymond	6,300.00	116.	First Baptist Church, Columbus	3,297.50	195.	Hathorn Baptist Church, Columbia	2,305.69
38.	Tylertown Baptist Church, Tylertown	6,265.85	117.	First Baptist Church, Flora	3,286.25	196.	Phalti Baptist Church, Prentiss	2,260.89
39.	First Baptist Church, Jackson	6,255.00	118.	Spring Creek Baptist Church, Philadelphia	3,267.12	197.	Christ Baptist Church, Greenwood	2,257.33
40.	First Baptist Church, Clinton	6,243.83	119.	Mantee Baptist Church, Mantee	3,264.40	198.	Shiloh Baptist Church, Big Creek	2,232.19
41.	Midway Baptist Church, Meridian	6,180.00	120.	First Baptist Church, Isola	3,248.93	199.	Midway Baptist Church, Jackson	2,225.00
42.	Roseland Park Baptist Church, Picayune	6,175.00	121.	Vaiden Baptist Church, Vaiden	3,246.24	200.	Emmanuel Baptist Church, Greenville	2,210.24
43.	North Batesville Baptist Church, Batesville	6,171.33	122.	Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Waynesboro	3,243.03	201.	Wheeler Grove Baptist Church, Corinth	2,207.25
44.	First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs	6,096.74	123.	First Baptist Church, Amory	3,194.99	202.	Bethlehem Baptist Church, Pinola	2,205.76
45.	First Baptist Church, Greenville	6,056.00	124.	First Baptist Church, Fulton	3,191.50	203.	Navilla Baptist Church, McComb	2,204.99
46.	Northwest Baptist Association, Hernando	6,000.00	125.	First Baptist Church, Madison	3,172.19	204.	New County Line Church, Carthage	2,180.00
47.	Arlington Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	5,784.80	126.	Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson	3,135.00	205.	Eastside Baptist Church, Pearl	2,165.00
48.	Hurley Baptist Church, Hurley	5,748.46	127.	Indian Springs Baptist Church, Laurel	3,134.14	206.	New Sight Baptist Church, Brookhaven	2,155.00
49.	Ingomar Baptist Church, New Albany	5,743.97	128.	First Baptist Church, Natchez	3,120.00	207.	Bethany Baptist Church, Meridian	2,151.53
50.	Rienzi Baptist Church, Rienzi	5,716.80	129.	Thrasher Baptist Church, Booneville	3,105.95	208.	Gooden Lake Baptist Church, Belzoni	2,146.00
51.	First Baptist Church, Brandon	5,687.20	130.	Beulah Memorial Baptist Church, Clinton	3,102.49	209.	First Baptist Church, Pascagoula	2,145.84
52.	Seminary Baptist Church, Seminary	5,676.30	131.	Chesterville Baptist Church, Tupelo	3,101.64	210.	Monticello Baptist Church, Gloster	2,145.00
53.	Sylvarena Baptist Church, Raleigh	5,584.09	132.	Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Columbus	3,081.37	211.	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Gloster	2,141.00
54.	Chunky Baptist Church, Chunky	5,500.00	133.	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Columbus	3,070.00	212.	French Camp Baptist Church, French Camp	2,094.37
55.	Unity Baptist Church, Harrisville	5,493.27	134.	Topeka Baptist Church, Jayess	3,023.64	213.	Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Collinsville	2,085.82
56.	Forest Baptist Church, Forest	5,455.00	135.	First Baptist Church, Eupora	2,996.96	214.	Morgan Chapel Baptist Church, Sturgis	2,080.00
57.	First Baptist Church, Starkville	5,428.71	136.	First Bellevue Baptist Church, Shelby	2,980.00	215.	Chapel Hill Baptist Church, Utica	2,075.07
58.	First Baptist Church, New Albany	5,371.00	137.	Calvary Baptist Church, Greenwood	2,973.09	216.	Pineville Baptist Church, Golden	2,066.00
59.	Macedonia Baptist Church, Myrtle	5,333.25	138.	Valley Grove Baptist Church, Tupelo	2,958.11	217.	Ingram Baptist Church, Baldwin	2,061.12
60.	First Baptist Church, Olive Branch	5,248.91	139.	Anchor Baptist Church, Water Valley	2,951.60	218.	First Baptist Church, Magee	2,057.00
61.	Tate Baptist Church, Corinth	5,066.50	140.	First Baptist Church, Mendenhall	2,943.75	219.	First Baptist Church, Florence	2,056.00
62.	Perkinston Baptist Church, Perkinston	5,058.33	141.	Lexie Baptist Church, Tylertown	2,939.79	220.	First Baptist Church, Senatobia	2,055.00
63.	Oak Forest Baptist Church, Jackson	5,044.70	142.	Macedonia Baptist Church, Brookhaven	2,882.25	221.	New Hope Baptist Church, Gulfport	2,043.30
64.	Mt. Zion Baptist Church-Tate, Independence	5,000.00	143.	Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo	2,855.00	222.	Norhcrest Baptist Church, Meridian	2,038.76
65.	Gaston Baptist Church, Booneville	4,907.92	144.	Union West Baptist Church, Oxford	2,846.59	223.	Dublin Baptist Church, Carson	2,034.59
66.	Trinity Baptist Church, Southaven	4,883.54	145.	First Baptist Church, Ripley	2,841.59	224.	Union Baptist Church, Corinth	2,020.00
67.	First Baptist Church, Vicksburg	4,882.27	146.	Moak's Creek Baptist Church, Summit	2,810.20	225.	Forest Hill Baptist Church, Jackson	2,018.73
68.	First Baptist Church, Sardis	4,867.82	147.	Bethsaida Baptist Church, French Camp	2,802.39	226.	Success Baptist Church, Saucier	1,965.31
69.	Parkway Baptist Church, Clinton	4,859.24	148.	Pineview Baptist Church, Clinton	2,801.53	227.	Anitoch Baptist Church, Monticello	1,960.50
70.	Bovina Baptist Church, Vicksburg	4,810.00	149.	Oakyale Baptist Church, Oak Vale	2,793.19	228.	Calvary Baptist Church, West Point	1,958.00
71.	Dry Creek Baptist Church, Mendenhall	4,786.56	150.	Foxworth Baptist Church, Foxworth	2,786.34	229.	Eastwood Baptist Church, Indianola	1,935.29
72.	First Baptist Church, Indianola	4,750.21	151.	First Baptist Church, Itta Bena	2,770.91	230.	First Baptist Church, Aberdeen	1,920.00
73.	Fellowship Baptist Church, Meridian	4,743.22	152.	Edna Baptist Church, Columbia	2,770.80	231.	Fellowship Baptist Church, Ripley	1,918.31
74.	First Baptist Church, Newton	4,699.64	153.	Society Hill Baptist Church, Oak Vale	2,735.00	232.	First Baptist Church, Yazoo City	1,915.00
75.	First Baptist Church, Hazlehurst	4,669.50	154.	Beulah Baptist Church, Inverness	2,699.46	233.	Valley Park Baptist Church, Valley Park	1,903.00
76.	First Baptist Church, Verona	4,630.00	155.	Friendship Baptist Church, Brookhaven	2,690.00	234.	Harmony Baptist Church, Walnut	1,896.00
77.	Derma Baptist Church, Derma	4,624.54	156.	Gallman Baptist Church, Gallman	2,657.91	235.	Madden Baptist Church, Madden	1,892.12
78.	Shiloh Baptist Church, Port Gibson	4,586.80	157.	Elon Baptist Church, Macon	2,627.00	236.	Central Baptist Church, McComb	1,879.32
79.	Central Baptist Church, Brookhaven	4,530.00	158.	Center Hill Baptist Church, Ecu	2,616.85	237.	Ludlow Baptist Church, Ludlow	1,862.80



# Father, son, grandson answer ministry call

## Bibliocipher

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YVKT PAW?

WBQM JYNQ: JYQOT-YSK

Clue: J = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah One: Two.

MANNING, Ark. (BP) — An Arkansas grandfather, son, and grandson share a lot more in common than just genetics.

The three men each pastor a church in the same association. The grandson, Jerry Holland, was ordained to the gospel ministry Dec. 12, but had begun serving as pastor of Prosperity Church, Ramsey, a few weeks earlier. The three generations also share another thing. Each tried to run from God's call to preach.

The grandfather, Jerry George, pastor of Manning Church, was 29 years old before he came to know Christ as Savior.

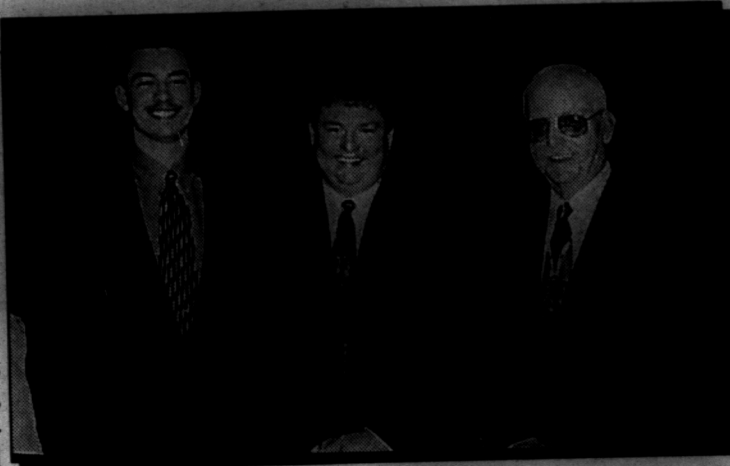
"I felt God was going to call me to something special even before I was saved," George said. "I just had a feeling." He came to know Christ and was attending Garden Home Church, Little Rock, when he felt the call to preach. He was about 35 years old when the call first came.

"I tried to run from the call to preach," Jerry George explained. "I began to teach Sunday School. I thought that's what it was (God was calling him to do). Then I was ordained as a deacon. I thought, 'That's it, that's what God wants me to do.'"

However, God didn't give him a peace about it. "Finally I went up and surrendered to preach," Jerry George recalled. "The next Sunday night I preached my first sermon."

The second-generation pastor, Bobby George, pastor of First Church, Thornton, remembers life as a preacher's kid. "I

remember going with Dad when he would go supply preach," the younger George said. "We went everywhere."



FAMILY AFFAIR — Three generations of Arkansas pastors (from left) Jerry Holland, Bobby George and Jerry George, all preach in Arkansas association. (BP photo by Charlie Warren)

He felt God's call to preach at age 18, during a service at Manning Church. "I went up and told dad God had something special for me to do but I didn't know what it was," he said. "That was a lie. I knew God wanted me to preach." Bobby George got married a few months later and moved out of his mom and dad's home and influence. The sudden freedom led him astray.

He started drinking and doing other things he knew were wrong. "Then my wife and kids were taken from me," he

said, his voice breaking with emotion. His wife left him, he got laid off from his job, his truck "blew up," and he moved back in with his parents. He had hit bottom all at once.

"I made a deal with God," Bobby George admitted. "I told Him I'd do whatever He wanted me to do if He would just give me my family back."

He quit drinking and got back in church. He began taking an active role in church, serving on committees and participating in many activities, but he was still avoiding God's clear call to preach.

His wife took him back, and they've been together ever since.

"One night during a revival at church, I got to praying for a man who was lost," Bobby George said. "The Lord told me, 'How can you pray for him when you're not right with Me yourself?' That's when I gave up."

He was ordained to preach at Manning Church. His dad preached the ordination charge.

He was called as pastor of First Church, Social Hill. While there, the church grew from eight to 50 in Sunday School. He resigned in March because he just felt God telling him to. He did supply preaching for a while, but Fred Gay, director of missions for the Carey Association, asked for his resume. He had never prepared one, but he put one together. Soon he was called to First Church, Thornton, where he has served since June.

## SWBTS troupe ministers through performing arts

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)

— The man with AIDS sat alone on the stage. The Bosnian refugee and battered wife had been ministered to and exited.

First, a long, uncomfortable pause, then the lights began to dim. Suddenly, a woman who had come to watch the drama

presentation, ran to the stage and with tears in her eyes hugged the actor portraying the AIDS victim. The power of the drama had literally pulled her out of her seat.

Their pulpit is different from most ministers, and their messages are a far cry from the 20-

minute, Sunday morning variety.

With dramatic power, "The Company" communicates the gospel around the world, fulfilling its simple goal summed up in its theme verse, Psalm 68:11: "The Lord announced the word and great was the company of those who proclaimed it."

The Company, Southwestern Seminary's touring repertory theater group, ministers by performing dramatic sketches and visual interpretations of songs in 45-minute to one-hour programs.

The sketches are short and to the point — some taken directly from Bible stories and others created to communicate a message from Scripture.

— A king dying for a woman condemned to death.

— A debate between a seeker and a cynic, contrasting the dead prophets of other religions with the truth of Christ's resurrection.

— A press conference with Moses about the deliverance at the Red Sea and the victory over the Amalekites.

— A tale based on Jesus' parable of the unmerciful servant.

About 10 to 20 students from all three schools perform with The Company. The group has taken the gospel across the nation, from Massachusetts to California. In 1996, they ministered at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. The Company has also made trips overseas to Zimbabwe, Switzerland, and Germany.

The main goals of The Company are to use creative arts to communicate the gospel and to inspire people to use that same

method in their own church or setting, according to acting director John Tillman, a master of communications student.

The Company began in 1985 through the efforts of Dennis Parrish, assistant professor of communication arts.

Parrish has been involved in theater since college when a foot ball injury required him to take ballet as part of his rehabilitation. The exposure to theater changed the course of Parrish's ministry.

In his 1983 master's thesis Parrish wrote that a dramatic troupe in which each member is involved with all the characters that are portrayed as well as other aspects of production enhances the production.

The cast members' closeness to each other and their dedication to the Lord are central to an good performance, he added.

"The Company concept involves a sense of unity," wrote Parrish. "The performers share their artistic craft with each other so that the performance is enhanced and not just the performer."

Both performer and performance have benefited through The Company.

The commitment level is very high because of the nature of the effort. Members participate in spiritual formation groups and short devotion times where they pray for ministry and other needs. They also keep track of their physical fitness using "aerobic points."

The Company is one of the foundation stones of Southwestern's communications program.



Ron M. Fowler, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

## LifeAnswers

*My husband is addicted to pornography, and he wants me to do some awful sexual things he has seen. I'm afraid he's moving toward violence if he doesn't get his way. What should I do?*

The pornography is causing your husband's senses to be overloaded, and he has come to expect more than you feel comfortable giving. You are not wrong to decline to participate. The addiction is something for which he needs help, but he probably will not seek help. Try to talk with him when he is not wanting you to perform sexually. A sexual relationship between a husband and a wife is something that they, as a couple, decide together. If you are afraid your husband may turn to violence, you should talk with someone who deals with women in

domestic violence situations. If you are afraid, craft a plan to protect yourself and your children. Have an extra key to the car, money, and clothes in case you need to move quickly. Talk to a trusted friend, your pastor, or a Christian therapist for the support you will need — especially if your husband continues in his addiction. Keep your eyes open and don't be naive.

*My son has been drinking heavily since he went off to one of those "party schools." Needless to say, his spiritual life and grades are suffering. How can I get him back on the right track?*

Pray, pray, pray! Begin an intensive effort to lift your son to the throne of heaven. Speak honestly with him about his

grades; attacking the drinking and partying at this point is probably senseless. You could bring him home from the school and the drinking would probably continue. The world's philosophy is "Go for the gusto now." Instead, talk about his long term goals and his plans on getting there. Let him struggle with the fact that with his grades sliding, he is sacrificing his future. He may not care and he may want to continue the partying — but if he does continue, he has made his decision and you should not continue funding this lifestyle. He must understand there are consequences for his behavior. Don't abandon him because of his wrong choices, and encourage him when he makes the right choices. If he is unable to make right choices, you should seek professional help for him.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.